



**JOHN HAMILTON
MAYOR**

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

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Dear Residents' Academy Participant,

I'm so pleased to be your first presenter in this adventure you are beginning with the Bloomington Residents' Academy!

I am especially grateful for your participation this year as we continue to navigate through the pandemic that our community and our world are facing. COVID-19 has challenged us to be more resourceful, more creative and more connected. Whether meeting virtually or in person, the impact of your interest and investment in learning more about our city is very tangible.

To help our community rebound and thrive despite the impact of these turbulent times, I recently shared a funding proposal with City Council on how to utilize the City's allocation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. My proposal seeks to provide support for affordable housing initiatives, new and innovative programs for addressing homelessness and housing insecurity, job training and employment programs, digital equity investments, and robust funding for the arts. Utilizing the ARPA funds to support this proposal will renew and rebuild Bloomington through these efforts that cultivate equity and inclusion, stimulate and diversify the local economy, and strengthen residents' ability to participate fully in our community.

As Mayor, I know that the best investment we can make is an investment in you, and that is what my proposal ultimately seeks to do. You are our residents, employers and employees, our artists, builders, makers, movers and shakers who make Bloomington the best it can be: a vibrant, inclusive and economically strong city.

Through Residents' Academy, I am excited for you to see what your fellow residents do each day to keep our beautiful city running. Every day of the year, every hour of the day, the employees of the City of Bloomington are working to serve you, our 85,000 residents, by providing police and fire protection, trash removal, parks programming, bus service, communications -- and those are just a few of the more visible of our activities on your behalf. There are folks doing engineering work, improving neighborhoods, making sure our water is safe and available, fixing our buildings, our roads and much more -- every day of the year.

I look forward to the opportunity to know you and work together to turn your interests into actions to renew our city, improve and move forward toward the diverse, safe, inclusive, and just community we want to be. Our time is our most valuable asset, so thank you for using your time to become a well-informed resident of Bloomington.

Sincerely,

John Hamilton
Mayor, City of Bloomington



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